The Corpus Christi Area Youth Orchestra is a free music program for area students ages 8-19.

There are three ensembles within the CCAYO:

**SPARKLING CITY ORCHESTRA**

**SYMPHONY ENSEMBLE**

**CORPUS CHRISTI YOUTH ENSEMBLE**

Dr. Jose G. Flores directs the Symphony Ensemble and Orchestra groups; Dr. Melissa Melendez directs the Sparkling City Strings and Sinfonietta ensembles. Two elite groups that have been created are the Viola Project and the Cello Choir. Carrie Pierce directs the Cello Choir.

New membership is by audition only, and is open to area students ages 8-19. Auditions are held once a year prior to the first CCAYO rehearsal of the season. Thanks to generous sponsor support, there is no audition fee or tuition charge for this program.

Members are expected to provide a personal or school instrument for rehearsal and performance use (standard percussion instruments provided by CAYS). The three strings-only ensembles are required to purchase specific instructional books for practice and rehearsal purposes. Please contact the CCSO for details on required class materials.

Returning CCAYO members must complete a CCAYO Member Renewal Form (contact CCSO for details), but do NOT need to audition.

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**CCAYO Winter Concert**

DECEMBER 13, 2018

**CCAYO Spring Concert**

MAY 2, 2019

Ticket Prices:

$10 Adults / $5 Students (or with College ID)
FREE Children ages 5 and under

Tickets will be available for presale through the CCSO office two weeks in advance of each concert. The CCAYO is provided tuition-free thanks to the generosity of our Sponsors.
Audition Requirements

**SPARKLING CITY ORCHESTRA**

- Little or no orchestra experience required
- At least one year of lessons or ensemble experience required
- Student should be prepared to demonstrate range of musical skills/knowledge during audition

**SYMPHONY ENSEMBLE and CORPUS CHRISTI YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

**Woodwinds, Brass, and Strings**

**Scales:** Perform 2 major scales of your choice, playing multiple octaves at varying speeds to best demonstrate your most advanced technique and artistry. **Woodwinds and Brass only:** demonstrate detached and slurred articulations.

**Chromatic Scale (Woodwinds and Brass Only):** Perform ascending and descending chromatic scale, demonstrating your full range from lowest to highest notes. Be prepared to demonstrate different articulations.

**Solo:** Perform a selection of your choice from a solo, etude, or orchestral excerpt that demonstrates your most advanced technique and musicianship. Selection should be no more than 4 minutes in length. Please bring one copy for the audition panel.

**Harp**

**Scales:** Perform 2 major scales of your choice, 4 octaves (hands together)

**Solo:** Perform a selection of your choice from a solo, etude, or orchestral excerpt that demonstrates your most advanced technique and musicianship. Selection should be no more than 4 minutes in length. Please bring one copy for the audition panel.

**Percussion**

Note: Percussion instruments will be provided: bring mallets/sticks.

**Keyboard:** Perform 2 major scales of your choice or marimba on other keyboard instrument (not required if student is not proficient on keyboard instrument)

**Snare:** Demonstrate a drumroll & controlled dynamics: pp to f

**Solo:** Perform selections of your choice from solos, etudes, or orchestral excerpts on timpani, snare, and keyboard instrument. Selections should demonstrate your most advanced technique and musicianship and be no more than 4 minutes in length. Students not proficient on timpani or keyboard instrument will only be required to perform a snare drum selection. Please bring one copy for the audition panel.

Check ccsymphony.org/youth-orchestra for updates!

Questions? Contact DGrim@ccsymphony.org

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**Important Audition Info**

- All new students are required to audition before admission to a CCAYO ensemble
- Auditions are held on a first come-first serve basis
- Each student is expected to supply his/her own instruments (excludes percussion)
- Placement in an ensemble is at the discretion of the audition panel and ensemble’s director

**Audition Date**
September 8th, 2018

**Room**
Audition room will likely be Room 127.

**Location**
Center for the Arts at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (second entrance)

**Application Deadline**
Friday, September 7th, 2018

**Questions?**
Contact the CCSO Office for more information on the CCAYO and Auditions. Contact Operations and Education Manager, Darcie Grim: 361.882.2717, dgrim@ccsymphony.org

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**CCAYO DIRECTORS**

**DIRECTOR**
Dr. Jose Flores
Dr. Jose Flores is a great advocate of orchestral music education, an accomplished professional musician and an experienced orchestral conductor. He is the Director of Orchestral Studies at Texas A&M- University-Corpus Christi and he has been professor of violin and viola at the university since 2008. Dr. Flores is on the faculty of Youth Classics Master Classes in Europe, where he teaches violin and viola and coaches chamber music ensembles. He serves as permanent guest faculty for the Academia Latino Americana de Violín (Latin-American Violin Academy). As one of the pioneer teachers in EL Sistema, Dr. Flores taught in a program which today transforms the lives of more than 500,000 of Venezuela’s most vulnerable children by giving them the chance to excel as young musicians.

He enjoys a performance career spanning six countries including South Korea, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Venezuela and the United States. In 2012 he appeared at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital in a performance with Dragonov and Friends. Here in Corpus Christi, he is a violinist in the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra. In addition to many other solo and recital performances, he regularly performs as a chamber musician with the Islander String Players. Dr. Flores holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Arizona. He also holds a Master of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the Aaron Copeland School of Music at New York. The 2016-17 season marks the eighth year Dr. Flores has served as Director of the Corpus Christi Area Youth Orchestra.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**
Dr. Melissa Melendez
CCAYO Assistant Director Melissa Melendez is a member of the Islander String Trio at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (A&M-Corpus Christi), principal violist for the Victoria Symphony, principal violist for the Kingsville Symphony and member of the Corpus Christi Symphony. Melendez is also the Director of the Suzuki Program at the A&M-Corpus Christi Blanche Davis Moore Early Childhood Development Center.

Melendez has performed with the University of Arizona Symphony Orchestra as the 2004 winner of the President’s Competition held at the University of Arizona, in addition to the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi String Orchestra, the Kingsville Symphony and the Balcones Symphony in Austin. In 2012, Melendez was featured in the world premiere of Venezuelan composer Gonzalo Castellano’s Concerto for Viola and Orchestra with the Carabobo Symphony in Venezuela.

Melendez holds a Bachelor’s in Music from Louisiana State University, a Master’s in Music from The Cleveland Institute of Music, an Artist Diploma from Duquesne University and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Arizona.